

REMARKS

The issues currently in the instant application are as follows:

- Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0157923 (Tani) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6792284 (Dalsgaard) and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0087305 (Jiang).
- Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0157923 (Tani) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6792284 (Dalsgaard).
- Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0157923 (Tani) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6792284 (Dalsgaard) and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0087305 (Jiang).

Applicant traverses the outstanding rejections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to change "steering area" to "location area." Page 4 lines 2-3 of the originally-filed specification define "steering area" as a generic term for "location area" or "routing area." Thus, no new matter has been added.

Claim 16 has been amended to change "steering area" to "location area" and to incorporate claims 17-19. No new matter has been added.

Claims 17-19 have been canceled.

Claim 20 has been amended to change "steering area" to "location area." No new matter has been added.

Information Disclosure Statement

Filed herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement PTO/SB/08a with copies of cited references. These references became known to the Applicant less than three

months ago and during the process of preparing this Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-15, and 20 – Tani, Dalsgaard, and Jiang

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0157923 (Tani) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6792284 (Dalsgaard) and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0087305 (Jiang).

Tani proposes an emergency call management apparatus and mobile station without contemplating the concept of different steering areas. Dalsgaard discusses cell reselection in a terminal for a cellular system without contemplating emergency call situations. Jiang proposes sending no Update Location message when a call is handed over to another cell that belongs to a different MSC (mobile switching center) but the same VLR (visitor location register). See Jiang paragraph [0151].

A location area is defined in 3GPP TS 23.002 V5.12.0 (2003-09) Section 3.8 as an area in which a mobile station may move freely without updating the VLR. Jiang paragraph [0151] states that if the subscriber moves from an MSC handled by one VLR to another MSC handled by the same VLR, then no location update is sent. Thus, Jiang is simply stating that no location update is sent if none is needed according to the definition of a location area. Additionally, Jiang paragraph [0151] also states that if the subscriber moves from an MSC handled by one VLR to another MSC handled by another VLR, then a location update is sent; this again is consistent with the definition of a location area.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “changing to a new cell in a different location area than the first cell without performing a location area update and without performing a routing area update.” Thus, independent claim 1 is not unpatentable in view of the references cited. Claims 2-3, 5, 7, and 9-15 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1 and consequently are also patentable over the cited references.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite "(b) changing to a new cell in a different location area than the old cell and returning to step (a) . . . wherein step (b) returns to step (a) without performing a steering area update." Thus, claim 20 is also not unpatentable in view of the references cited. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-15, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tani, Dalsgaard, and Jiang is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Claim 16 – Tani and Dalsgaard (and Jiang)

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tani (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0157923) in view of Dalsgaard (U.S. Patent No. 6,792,284). Claim 16 has been amended to recite redirecting (or reselecting) to a new cell in a different location area without performing a steering area update. The subject matter of claims 17-19 have been incorporated into claim 16, and claims 17-19 have been canceled. All of the references cited require a location area update upon moving to a new cell in a different location area. Thus, claim 16 is patentable in view of Tani and Dalsgaard (and Jiang and 3GPP TS 23.002 V5.12.0 (2003-09)). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tani and Dalsgaard is respectfully requested.

S U M M A R Y

The application is in condition for allowance and a favorable response at an early date is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number indicated below.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502117.

Respectfully submitted,

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